21.7.43

A Solemne League and Covenant FOR REFORMATION And Defence of RELIGION, THE Honour and Happyneſſe of the KING, and the Peace and Safetie of the three Kingdoms of ENGLAND, SCOTLAMD And IRELAND.

Jere. 50. 5. *Come let us joyn our ſelves to the Lord in a perpetuall Covenant, that ſhall not be forgotten.*

Prov. 25. 5. *Take away the wicked from before the King, and his Throne ſhall be eſtabliſhed in Righteouſneſſe.*

2 Chron. 15. 15. *And all* Judah *rejoyced at the Oath, for they had ſworn with all their heart, and ſought him with their whole deſire, and he was found of them, and the Lord gave them reſt round about.*

Die Jovis. 21. *Septemb.*

IT is this day Ordered by the Commons in Parliament aſſembled, That this Covenant be forthwith Printed and publiſhed.

Hen. Elſynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

London, Printed for *Edw. Husbands*. *Sept.* 23. 1643.

18.

A ſolemne League and Covenant for Reformation and defence of Religion, &c.

WE, *Noblemen, Barons, Knights, Gentlemen, Citizens, Burgeſſes, Miniſters of the Goſpel and Commons of all ſorts in the Kingdom of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *by the providence of God, living under one King, and being of one Reformed Religion, having before our Eyes the Glory of God, and the Advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, the Honour and Happyneſſe of the Kings Majeſty, and His Poſteritie, and the true publike Libertie, Safetie, and Peace of the Kingdoms, wherein every ones private Condition is included; And calling to minde the Treacherous and Bloody Plots, Conſpiracies, Attempts, and Practiſes of the Enemies of God, againſt the true Religion and Profeſſors thereof, in all places, eſpecially in theſe three Kingdoms, ever ſince the Reformation of Religion; And how much their*

Rage, Power, and Presumption, are of late, and at this time increased and exercised, whereof the deplorable Estate of the Church and Kingdom of Ireland, *the distressed Estate of the Church and Kingdom of* England, *and the dangerous Estate of the Church and Kingdom of* Scotland, *are present and publike Testimonies. We have now at last (after other means of Supplication, Remonstrance, Protestations, and Sufferings) for the Preservation of our selves and our Religion, from utter ruine and destruction, according to the commendable practise of these Kingdoms in former times, and the example of Gods People in other Nations, after mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mutuall and solemne League and Covenant, wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our Hands lifted up to the most High God, do swear,*

25. 7. 43

I. THat we shall sincerely, really, and constantly, through the grace of God, indeavour in our severall Places and Callings, The Preservation of the Reformed Religion in the Church of *Scotland*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government, against our common Enemies; The Reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government, according to the Word of God, and the example of the best Reformed Churches; And shall indeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdoms to the neerest Conjunction and Uniformitie in Religion, Confession of Faith, Forme of Church Government, Directory for Worship and Catechising; That we and our Posteritie after us, may as Brethren live in Faith

Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the midst of us.

II. That we shall in like manner, without respect of Persons, indeavour the extirpation of Popery, Prelacy, (that is, Church-Government, by Archbishops, Bishops, their Chancellors, and Commissaries, Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, and all other Ecclesiasticall Officers depending on that Hierarchy,) Superstition, Heresie, Schisme, Prophaneness, and whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the Power of Godliness, lest we partake in other mens sins, and thereby be in danger to receive of their Plagues; and that the Lord may be one, and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.

III. We shall with the same sinceritie, realitie, and constancy in our severall Vocations, indeavour with our Estates and Lives, mutually to preserve the Rights and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and the Liberties of the Kingdoms, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties Person, and Authoritie, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdoms, That the World may bear Witnesse with our Consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no Thoughts or Intentions to diminish His Majesties just Power and Greatnesse.

IIII. We shall also with all faithfulnesse indeavour the discovery of all such as have been, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evill Instruments, by

hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from His People, or one of the Kingdoms from another, or making any faction, or parties amongst the People contrary to this League and Covenant; That they may be brought to publike Tryall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shall require or deserve, or the supreme Judicatories of both Kingdoms, respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.

V. And whereas the happyneſſe of a blessed Peace between these Kingdoms, denyed in former times to our Progenitors, is by the good providence of God granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded and setled by both Parliaments; We shall each one of us, according to our Place and Interest indeavour, That they may remain conjoyned in a firm Peace and Union to all Posteritie; and that Justice may be done upon the wilfull opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Article.

VI. We shall also according to our Places and Callings, in this common Cause of Religion, Libertie, and Peace of the Kingdoms, assist and defend all those that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining and pursuing thereof; and shall not suffer our selves directly, or indirectly, by whatsoever combination, perswasion, or terrour, to be divided and withdrawn from this blessed Union and Conjunction, Whether to make defection to the contrary part, or to give our selves to a detestable indifferency or neu-

tralitie

20

tralitie in this Cauſe, which ſo much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdoms, and honour of the King; but ſhall all the dayes of our lives, zealouſly, and conſtantly continue therein againſt all oppoſition, and promote the ſame according to our Power, againſt all Lets and Impediments whatſoever: And what we are not able our ſelves to ſuppreſſe, or overcome, we ſhall reveal and make known, that it may be timely prevented or removed. All which we ſhall do, as in the ſight of God.

And becauſe theſe Kingdoms are guiltie of many ſins and provocations againſt God and his Son Jeſus Chriſt, as is too manifeſt by our preſent diſtreſſes and dangers, the fruits thereof; We profeſſe and declare before God and the World, our unfained deſire to be humbled for our own ſins, and for the ſins of theſe Kingdoms, eſpecially that we have not as we ought, valued the ineſtimable benefit of the Goſpel; That we have not laboured for the Purity and Power thereof; and that we have not indeavoured to receive Chriſt in our Hearts, nor to walk worthy of him in our lives, which are the cauſes of other ſins and tranſgreſſions, ſo much abounding amongſt us; And our true and unfained purpoſe, deſire and indeavour for our ſelves and all others, under our Power and Charge both in publike and in private, in all duties we owe to God and man, to amend our lives, and each one to go before another in the example of a reall Reformation, That the Lord may turn away his wrath and heavy indignation, and eſtabliſh theſe Churches and Kingdoms in Truth and Peace. And this

this Covenant we make in the presence of Almightie God, the searcher of all Hearts, with a true intention to p rforme the same, as we sh ll answer at that great day, when the secrets of all Hearts shall be disclosed; most humbly beseeching the Lord to strengthen us by his holy Spirit for this end; And to blesse our desires and proceedings with such successe, as may be deliverance and safety to his People, and incouragement to the Christian Churches, groaning under, or in danger of the yoak of Antichristian Tyranny, to joyn in the same or like Association and Covenant, To the glory of God, the Inlargement of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the Peace and Tranquilitie of Christian Kingdoms and Common-Wealths.

FINIS.